


The Book Reviews of Chester Cuthbert

Authors' surnames beginning with

La



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La Bern, Arthur

Frenzy (Previously entitled Goodbye Piccadilly, Fare-
well Leicester Square; London, Pan Books Ltd (#23205), 2nd
Printing, 1972 (1966, author) 191p.

An air force officer with a distinguished record is broke and seeks out his divorced wife for sympathy. She gives him a meal and some money, but is found murdered the following day under circumstances which point to him as the murderer. Befriended by an old war buddy and his bride, and by a bar girl who is also found murdered by a sex maniac he is accused of her murder.

The actual murderer is also a customer of the bar who lives by expertise at the race track, and who successfully plants evidence against the air force officer. Convicted of the murder, the officer escapes, returns to the room of the actual murderer, only to find that his wife's receptionist has also been murdered and the book ends with him having just discovered her body.

This is the most equivocal ending to a murder mystery of any book I have read. Convicted on circumstantial evidence, he is left in circumstances which automatically would convict him of another murder of which he was innocent, as he was of the first two.

Apparently, this novel was made into a Hitchcock film starring Michael Caine.

This novel is quite interesting, and unique in my experience. It is something like Stockton's The Lady or the Tiger, or Aldrich's Marjorie Daw.

La Bern, Arthur

Nightmare; London, W. H. Allen, 1975 (1975, author) 157p.
London & Sydney, Pan Books (#25056), (1977) 158p.

Raine, a respected barrister who became an alcoholic after his wife and daughter left him, tries to commit suicide but is placed in a sanitarium. He finds that the regulations seem to be as senseless as the actions of some patients, and wonders if the system and its perpetrators are sane.

He becomes acquainted with a killer he had had as a client, and who threatens to kill the man his wife had run off with. Escaping with the assistance of a nymphomaniac, he discovers that his wife and daughter have both been at an address where his wife's lover, a notorious gangster, is by Raine found dead with a bread knife in his back. Suspecting his wife of the murder, he later finds that his daughter was guilty, who killed because of the verbal abuse heaped on her mother by the gangster.

Whether for sensationalism or from information obtained, the author accuses the institutions of using sex among the personnel and patients as therapy, and the story emphasises sexual activity. Although information concerning sanatoria and regulations is provided, this and the activities of the patients are only superficially treated.

Apart from its specialized classification, this novel has no permanent value.

INTRODUCTION

The Horizon Process Task Force originated by action of the All-Canada Committee in response to a request from the Ontario Area Board (a more complete statement is contained in the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the All-Canada Committee, February 1977, pp. 4f.). The specific job given to the Task Force was "to engage our people across Canada in facing the question, 'How can we more effectively be the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada as we face the future?', at congregational, area, and regional levels."

Various methods were used by the Task Force in a serious attempt to involve a wide range of Disciples in facing the basic question. These methods included: visits to congregations, solicitation of opinions at Area gatherings, personal visits by members of the Task Force with involved individuals, discussion with one group of clergy, and a questionnaire. All of the information was digested and reviewed by the Task Force. The preparation of the Report was then done by a drafting team of four persons.

The Report is intentionally brief so that it will be read and will stimulate continuing attention. The Report follows and consists of these sections:

Affirmation

Call to Commitment

Aids and Ideas

Composite of Responses

LaCalle, Trula Michaels (Ph.D.)

Voices; New York, Berkley Books (#11587), (May, 1989),
(Dodd, Mead edition, 1987); Index 274p.

This is the case history of a young male homosexual who had been abused sexually by a friend of his father's and by others, and who developed seven personalities which are very helpfully described on the rear cover of the paperback. It is unique in my reading experience of such cases in that it gives a clear account of the effect which dealing with this case had on the psychologist and her family, almost causing an estrangement from her husband and making her neglect her own two children.

It is also the first such case which depicts the effect on the subject and on the psychologist of seeing Aids kill a lover of the subject.

Since this was the first case of multiple personality dealt with by the author, her own misgivings about her ability to handle the case, her lack of guidelines prior to 1980 and the reactions of fellow professionals and hospital personnel to a known case of such rarity are important.

Fortunately, another woman doctor had handled a case of multiple personality and was able to offer help and counsel to the other professionals and to the author.

Recognition of such cases is now becoming commonplace, and a recent newspaper clipping indicates that perhaps 10% of the population suffers from amnesia or multiple personality as the result of child abuse. If so, the psychiatrists in general have been very slow to accept the reality of the phenomenon.

la Cour, Tage, and Mogensen, Harald

The Murder Book: An Illustrated History of the Detective Story; Foreword by Julian Symons; New York, Herder and Herder (1971); Bibliography, Index 191p.

This is a surprisingly good survey of the subject, considering that it is translated from its 1969 publication in Copenhagen.

There are many illustrations of interest to me in many areas of my personal collection, and this book should be retained for reference.



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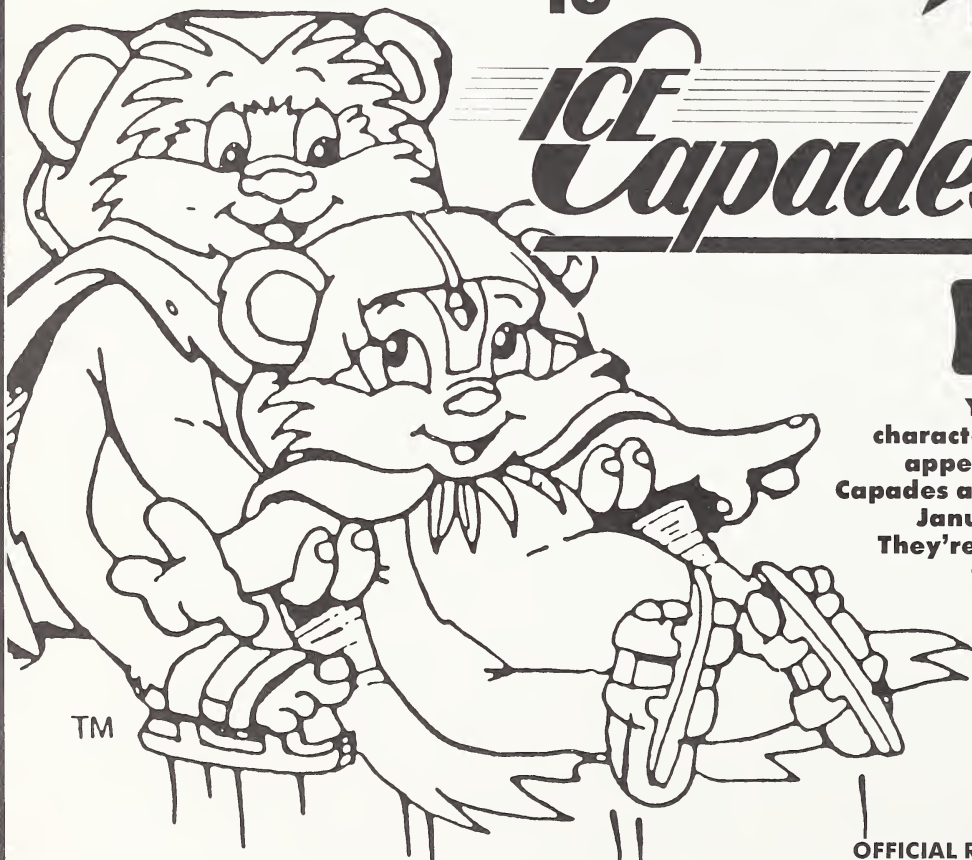
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6. Children of Safeway Employees are not eligible.
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SAFEWAY

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Legy, Ed (Len Zinberg)

Room to Swing; New York, Pyramid Books (#603), (1959),
(1957, author) 158p.

A negro private detective is framed for a murder, and in escaping, hits a cop, which makes him subject to abuse if he is caught, innocent or guilty.

The story covers his views of racist animosity, his efforts to discover who the killer was and the reason for the killing; his being befriended by a lesbian girl working for a TV production company, his losing a money-oriented girl friend and finding a negro small town girl who helps him in spite of the danger to herself from being implicated in the murder.

Fast-paced and interesting, this is still not as good material as is presented in the books written under the author's own name. However, it is a collector's item for the cover art by Bob Maguire, apart from my interest in the author.

Lacy, Ed

Sin in Their Blood; New York, New York, Macfadden-Bartell Corporation (#50-255), (1952, Lacy) 128p.

A former private eye, recovering from T.B. after eleven months in hospital, is offered a partnership by his former partner, now a racketeer making big money. The racketeer's moll, a former prostitute, tries to team up with him since she finds him attractive, but he refuses her advances. The mistress of a businessman takes him as a roomer, her brother attacks him, but later teams up with him to entrap the racketeer, who commits suicide, fearing exposure of his homosexual leanings. The businessman has murdered his sister and her husband in order to gain full control of the business; the private eye is nearly defeated by him, but with the help of the police and the man's mistress, whom he loves but who is in danger of becoming an alcoholic, defeats him.

Although told with sufficient expertise, this is merely a tough, sleazy imitation of Dashiell Hammett, and not worth re-reading.

Lagerlof, Selma

The Wonderful Adventures of Nils; Illustrated by Mary Hamilton Frye; Translated and edited by Velma Swanston Howard; Garden City, New York, Doubleday, Page & Company, 1922 (1907, 1913, Publishers); Publishers' Note; Translator's Introduction; Glossary 265p.

The introduction indicates the value of this book as an elementary textbook for schoolchildren to understand their country Sweden.

Nils is a bad boy who schemes to evade shornhgoing by staying at home and reading a little, but is set a heavy task by his father who insists that he must read the entire service. Falling asleep over his book, Nils is visited by an elf, and when he tries to deceive, is diminished in size so that he can be transported on the back of a flying goose and taken all over the Swedish countryside, learning about drowned and living cities, about the animals and birds, and about the history and geography of his country.

This book qualifies as sociological fantasy, and ends with a note that there is a sequel Further Adventures of Nils. Possibly I have this, a smaller sized book if my recollection is correct.

Barabbas; Translated by Alan Blair; With a Preface by Lucien Maury and a Letter by Andre Gide; Toronto, Clarke, Irwin & Company Limited; London, Chatto and Windus v-xii;187p.

Contrary to Brooker's "The Robber", this novel commences on the day of the Crucifixion, when Christ has been placed on the Cross instead of Barabbas. The robber is portrayed as an antisocial, whoring, and brooding man, almost stupid, who sees the darkness which settled on Golgotha and wonders at it; who has been dazzled by the light of the sun on his release from prison and sees Christ accordingly as one haloed; who witnesses the empty tomb but sees nothing extraordinary in this although a hare-lipped girl who had borne him a child is entranced and believes she has seen an angel at the tomb and her arisen Saviour. He does not know why he follows Christ to see him crucified, and attributes a curious power of attraction to him, but wonders at the supernatural powers which the Christians give him, and even investigates to the extent of interviewing Lazarus, whom he concludes were better left dead as he is only a witness to Christ, but an unpleasant one, of no value, like a zombie.

Also contrary to Brooker, Barabbas survives to be a man in his fifties, kills a man who stones the hare-lipped girl, returns to his band of robbers and is unwelcome because he does not share the work and merely broods, is captured by Rome and serves as a slave in a mine, and later in the home of the Governor of the mines, who takes him to Rome when he retires. A fellow prisoner in the mines is a Christian, who marvels when Barabbas tells him he actually saw the crucifixion and the resurrection: this reinforces his faith; but Barabbas, though he wears on his slave disc the designation of a Christian, says only that he would like to be one, but cannot believe.

In Rome, when it is set afire, he hears the cause to be the Christians, and thinking to join them, he sets many homes ablaze. He then learns that they are falsely accused, and that his actions and his disc have served to convict them of a crime they did not commit. He is the last to be crucified, alone, he dies.

Shorn of all save basic historical detail, this is rather an allegory than a novel. Barabbas is haunted by the fact of Christ's having died in his stead, ponders his life and teaching, but cannot accept the miraculous elements and is contemptuous of all Christians except his fellow-prisoner until the last in Rome. Even then, he has misunderstood their religion.

The Haunted Omnibus; edited and with a foreword by Alexander Laing and illustrated by Lynd Ward; Farrar & Rinehart, Inc. (1937) 848p.

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This excellent anthology should be retained for reference, as the reprint "Great Ghost Stories of the World" ends at page 484 of this volume, and does not reprint the foreword.

Laing, Alexander

Anthology.

Great Ghost Stories of the World: The Haunted Omnibus;
Illustrated by Lynd Ward; Garden City, N. Y., Blue Ribbon
Books (1941) 486p.

This reprint edition of The Haunted Omnibus contains only the first 27 of the 42 stories published in the original edition, and omits the important foreword by the editor. It may therefore be discarded from a collection which contains the original volume.

Lait, Jack, and Mortimer, Lee

Chicago Confidential!; New York, Crown Publishers, 1950
(Crown); Index 302p.
New York, Dell Publishing Company, Inc. (#D101) 317p.

This is a serious indictment of Chicago as a sin city, controlled by organized crime. It names names and although not scientifically documented I accept its conclusions. Lait was a reporter in Chicago who went to New York, but continued to write articles about Chicago; and he and Mortimer teamed up to write their first expose New York Confidential. When conditions in the two cities were similar, the authors simply referred to the relevant chapters in the earlier book, so it is wise to keep both books for reference.

In some degree, this is a guidebook to the shadier side of the windy city, but those who are wise enough to eschew such things will be able to learn much from what is set forth by the authors. The index is a help to finding the important material.

Although it deals with sin-spots, the language used is sober and reportorial; but the authors are not above relating many humorous and shocking anecdotes.

Lait, Jack

Put on the Spot; New York, Grosset & Dunlap (1930, Publishers); (Underworld Glossary) 215p.

This is a Chicago gangster novel, portraying the 1920's scene of lavish big money, gambling, gang wars, grafting police and politicians, a gang moll, police brutality, and the acceptance by the gangs of their inevitable end by violence. This is the American slang version of Edgar Wallace's On the Spot.

The glossary is of special interest; otherwise this novel conveys little of originality. It is poorly written, but I believe it is an authentic description of conditions as they were in the period.

HOME STREET



CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

240 HOME STREET • WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3G 1X3 • (204) 783-5881

May 30, 1982

Dear Home Street Youth:

Just a note to let you know of the fun and exciting youth activities coming your way this Summer.

First - Youth Campout, July 1-4 at

Spruce Woods Provincial Park

A registration form is enclosed - note its due date: June 20. This is especially for you - the youth of Home Street Church - and your friends. We'll leave the church at 8:30 AM, July 1.

Second - Encounter '82, August 8-15 at

Bird's Hill Provincial Park

This is the Big One! Youth from all across Canada will be joining us for a terrific week. Camp leader will be Steve Mabry from Sacramento, California. If you attended the Anaheim Assembly last year, you may remember him as one of the youth leaders - the one with the guitar. Enclosed is further information on Encounter and an Encounter Registration form. Note its due date: June 30.

Again this year you have something great to work for. Bottles? Car washes? Whatever; it's time to begin. I'll be in touch.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ray E. Trotter".

Ray E. Trotter

Lamb, G(eoffrey) F.

The Pegasus Book of Magicians; Illustrated by F. D.
Phillips; London, Dennis Dobson (1968, Lamb); Bibliography;
Index 189p.

The survey of this subject includes superstitions, early magic and astrology, spiritualism, stage magic and sleight-of-hand, mentalism, and some biographical details of the more important characters.

It is written from the sceptical point of view, and only with reference to Home is there any question of genuine psychic phenomena. The bibliography supports the sceptical view and almost ignores psychical research, but mentions the Zanczies having fooled a committee of the SPR.

As an elementary exposition of the subject, it is quite adequate, but due allowance should be made for its sceptical bias.

Lamb, Harold

Kirdy: The Road Out of the World; Decorated by Boris Artzybasheff; Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc., 1933 276p.

Kirdy, grandson of Khlit the Cossack, is commissioned by him to kill Otrepiev who has falsely posed as Dmitri son of Ivan the Terrible. Otrepiev is a renegade Cossack who has led the Poles to defeat the Cossacks; and later kills a friend resembling him in order to gain time by making the nobles believe him dead. He escapes, leads the Turkomans against the people of the steppes, is defeated by Kirdy's attack at the head of Tevakel Khan's warriors; again escapes, and seeks a fabled city of the Golden Horde beyond the mountains, discovers it a ruin, fights Kirdy and his girl, is killed by Kirdy. Kirdy and his girl continue eastward to Cathay and the story of their success reaches Tevakel the following spring.

This is primarily an adventure story, very well written by an authority on the background of history and customs of the Russians and the Mongols. Only the superstitions of the time and the people give any element of fantasy, and the book does not belong in a fantasy collection, but might possibly, because of the fabled city's ruins, be included in a "lost race" collection as a borderline item.

I would classify it as a good historical adventure.

Lamb, Harold

The Mighty Manslayer; Garden City, New York, Doubleday
& Company, Inc., 1969. 230p.

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Although the superstitions of the races dealt with in these stories are portrayed, there is no indication of the supernatural treated as fact, excepting in connection with prophecies. This is often the case in historical fiction, and it is difficult to decide whether the author is using this factor as a fictional device, or whether he accepts the phenomenon as a fact. Certainly the characters in the stories believe in prophecy.

The publishers say that these stories are reprinted in exactly the form of their original publication in Adventure magazine between 1916 and 1926. They are all well-written and interesting, but the characters are not historical. Of its kind, this is a very good book.

I obtained the book from Walter James Wentz, and it has his bookplate, designed by Norman Lindsay. I read it because John Steurt, Bill Orlikow's friend, wants it, and I shall be sending it to him.

Lambert, R. S.

Exploring the Supernatural: The Weird in Canadian Folklore; Toronto, McClelland & Stewart Ltd. (1955, Publishers) Illustrated by John Dugan 198p.
Canadian Best-Seller Library (#19), Sub-title on title-page changed to Ghosts in Canadian Folklore; (October, 1966) (1955, author) 198p.

This is an excellent summary of the material from some rare books and magazine and newspaper articles concerning authentic psychical phenomena and unusual natural sightings of allegedly mythical beings.

Among his publications, Lambert does not list his collaboration with Harry Price The Haunting of Cashen's Gap. I wonder if his libel suit, which Price says is narrated in Ariel and All His Quality, made Lambert decide against using further publicity of the matter.

The Baldoon and Amherst poltergeist hauntings are the most detailed in this volume, and I am happy to have these summaries, since I have never found copies of the original books on these cases. The Baldoon is re-cast in story form in Louise Darios's Strange Tales of Canada.

The other chapters are less detailed, but the first two on the Shaking Tents of the Indians are excellent, although I know of some citations he has missed.

This is probably the best single volume written by a qualified believer in psychic phenomena, of the supernormal incidents occurring in Canada.

At one place, although most of the poltergeist fires did cause destruction, Lambert says the coals were not hot. Also, although most poltergeist hauntings caused destruction of property, few or no people were injured by stones, fires, bullets, thrown objects or when buildings burnt down, though some people were burnt in their attempts to quench the fires.

The two main cases, and others, relate a multiplicity of fires occurring. Is mention of these made in Harrison's Fire from Heaven? Also, why in these cases was there no spontaneous ignition of people themselves, as narrated by Fort (and likely by Harrison)?

Master Slater

The Phantom in the Rainbow; The Popular Library, 32 Bloomsbury
Street, London, W.C.1, No Date 318 pp.



Lamond, John (D.D.)

Arthur Conan Doyle: A Memoir; with an epilogue by Lady Conan Doyle; London, John Murray (1931); Illustrated, Index 310p.

The author was requested through Arthur Ford to write this biography, and Lady Doyle acceded.

The sketchy biography is made personal and familiar by the author's recollections of his association with Doyle and by the widow's eulogy of her husband. Perhaps too much attention is given the author's own views on spiritualism, but as these were largely in agreement with Doyle's, they may be allowable in this volume.

The first book of the biography deals with Doyle's early life, and the second, beginning at page 131, with his crusade for spiritualism. This is treated entirely from the point of view of its religious, rather than its scientific or phenomenal aspects, and supports Doyle's own writings on the subject.

The book closes with letters of condolence from various friends and acquaintances of Doyle which indicate the high regard in which he was held.

Although family authorized and consequently uncritical, this book supports the view of Doyle as a gentleman who was kind, good, generous, a fighter for justice, a good writer, and a man who sacrificed worldly values for the causes he espoused. His capacity for work and his expertise at all the activities in which he engaged make it necessary to respect his opinions, even though in some instances his faith and belief were misplaced.

His 2-volume history of spiritualism was based on years of research and a large collection of books, and even with its errors, is worth consulting.

Lamond, The Rev. John, D.D.

Kathleen: A Study in the Supernormal; London, Hutchinson & Co., circa. 1924, Frontispiece 258p.

The author often supported Sir Arthur Conan Doyle during platform speeches and wrote a biography of Doyle authorized by Lady Doyle. This book, however, is best compared as a companion book to Lodge's Raymond.

Born October 14, 1896, Kathleen died on March 11, 1922. Book 1 is a brief biography, ending at page 25. Book 2 "An Inquiry into the Meaning and Value of Spiritualism" is a summary of the author's views on spiritualism from a religious viewpoint, and is intended as a memorial to his daughter. Book 3 "Conversations with Kathleen" is more a series of monologues by the author in conveying his views to Kathleen in response to her objections to them, since they did not agree during her lifetime concerning spiritualism.

Lamond attended seances 30 years prior to openly espousing spiritualism, and declared that modern phenomena confirmed the reality of the Bible miracles. Materialistic, mechanistic science was so dominant that the Churches felt that such phenomena were fraudulent; that the age of miracles was past; and that preaching should conform to an adjustment to the modern scientific viewpoint. Lamond deplored ignoring the reality of phenomena and believed that he was in touch with Kathleen after her death through mediums like Gladys Osborne Leonard. Several times he declared that phenomena had occurred which were more startling than any publicized in the spiritualistic literature.

This book is a plea to both religion and science to accept and investigate the reality of communication with the departed. On pages 77-78 he recommends over 20 books; of the titles listed I have all but three in my library.

He draws attention to Mrs. Oliphant's biography of Edward Irving, which I have, but have not read. He praises James Hogg the Ettrick Shepherd, indicating that Hogg could not read or write until past the age of 20. He appears very familiar with the great mediums and the literature of psychic phenomena, and draws attention to the erudite teachings of spirit controls through mediums incapable of consciously understanding or enunciating them.

This book is mainly important as a depiction of the state of social consideration of spiritualism from a religious point of view during the author's lifetime. It expounds the philosophy of spiritualism, the conditions of the afterlife, and insists on the reality of the phenomena.

Lamott, Kenneth

The Money-makers: The Great Big New Rich in America;
Boston/Toronto, Little, Brown and Company (1969, Lamott);
Illustrated, Bibliography, Index 328p.

Lamott makes no secret of his dislike for the subjects of his book, and for the tax laws which give them preference in accumulating their fortunes. Although he draws largely on the bibliography for material, he also personally interviewed many of his subjects.

Analyzing his text, I gather that most of the men who have made large fortunes since the Robber Barons have been similar to them in being "a law unto themselves". Working hard and taking advantage ruthlessly of their fellow men, they have also developed the art of accumulating capital and using it to advantage.

This book has a useful bibliography and index, and is worth keeping for reference. It does not show how money is made, but gives a broad picture of the various ways in which capital is employed to buttress enterprise.

Lancaster, Evelyn, and Poling, James

The Final Face of Eve: An Uncensored Abridgement; New York, Hillman Books (#161), (1960), (1958, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.) 191p.

Although abridged, this paperback edition is presented well, and makes more interesting reading for the layman than Thigpen & Cleckley's The Three Faces of Eve. Having read the earlier book, only the viewpoint of the final Eve, who replaced Jane, and the fact of her inheriting the memories of the three previous personalities thus making her a composite personality capable of becoming a good wife to Earl Lancaster and mother to Bonnie, were new to me. However, Poling, who apparently did the writing, did a good job and made this book fascinating.

I should keep on the watch for the hardback edition.

This case is worth deep study, and there are incidental comments in the text which make it imperative to use care in considering them.

In "I'm Eve", it is said that the book sold less than ten thousand copies; but that there was an English edition published under the title (chosen by "Eve") Strangers in My Body. Poling wrote under severe restrictions, and was not responsible for many of the inaccuracies presented in this book.

See: Sizemore & Pittillo: I'm Eve

"Thy Kingdom Come" 12 Chapters on the attainment of truthful living
by Rom Landau; Ivor Nicholson & Watson, London, 1937.

"At the Conference of the British Association in 1936, Professor Julian Huxley admitted that it was impossible to deny the reality of telepathy and of even more subtle and more mysterious powers which, although operative in human life, cannot be detected by our present scientific methods.

"Dr. Alexis Carrel goes even further and states that 'the study of phenomena of clairvoyance should not be neglected any more than that of chronaxy of nerves'."

The Austrian Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) was founder of a new cosmological science called Anthroposophy. His method combined the ordinary scientific approach with purely occult investigations. The depth and the exactitude of his clairvoyant perceptions make him one of the greatest occultists of all times.

His main disciple and collaborator, Johannes Stein, says that people in different epochs have not always seen even the same colours. There is no blue sky in Homer. No mention of green before Aristotle, nor adoration connected with blue before the Middle Ages. Why do children love red while adults prefer blue? At first the eye lay in the middle of the brow and was what is now the pineal gland. The ichthyosaurus indicates that the one-eyed Cyclops once lived. Two eyes came into existence with the separation into two sexes. The Egyptians said the right eye is masculine, the left feminine. This corresponds with a physiological fact. Humanity passes from the red end of the spectrum towards the blue-violet. Before men saw red they were only capable of seeing twilight colours, half-shades. Therefore in Sanscrit the word for the colour of blood and the colour of snow is the same, designating not the colour itself, but the quality of radiance possessed by the colour.

Mrs. L. Kolisko's chemico-medical researches have established definite connections between the planetary movements and the organic functions of the human body. The function of the kidney had relation to copper and silver--that is, to the formative forces of Venus and the moon--and it has been proved in medical practice that those metals and the plants which have relations to them are of the greatest efficacy in healing diseases of the kidney. Note that copper malachite always takes the shape of a kidney. Indications are that diseases of various organs tend to show the same periodicity as the planet to which this organ has relation. Certain physiological processes in women are intimately connected with the phases of the moon, and there are rhythms in man's creative powers corresponding to planetary rhythms. The time rhythms of human fertility have their corresponding rhythms in the movements of planets.

Landers, Ann

Truth is Stranger; New York, (January, 1970), (Prentice-Hall, Inc., November, 1968) 235p.

A selection of letters and comment, with general introduction to each section, from her newspaper columns, this preserves some of the best in book form. It is indeed a good general cross-section of contemporary life and problems, with humor and insight, and unusual wisdom. Ann gives her experts due credit for the technical advice she has needed.

A very good book, well worth re-reading often.

Lang, Andrew

Adventures Among Books; Third Impression; London, Longmans, Green and Co., 1912 (March, 1905) 312p.

(p.3) Lang remembers "a great deal about books and very little about people"; (p.5) learned to read about age four; (12) Poe not for children; was inspired to learn Greek by reading Homer; (25) Lytton's "Strange Story" a most satisfactory romance, suggesting reading Petrus de Abano.

(p.36) J. F. M'Lennan had the most acute and ingenious of minds which I have encountered. His writings on early marriage and early religion were revelations which led on to others.

(p.46) reading "Jekyll and Hyde" (47) Thrawn Janet" 2nd only to "Wandering Willie's Tale"

Does not give Holmes so high a place as Hawthorne, but mentions "Elsie Venner" and "The Guardian Angel" with praise.

Liked Morris's poems, and recommended the reprinting of the prose romances from magazines.

Admired greatly Mrs. Radcliffe's novels, thinking "A Romance of the Forest" superior to "Mysteries of Udolpho", but "The Italian" best.

Interesting essay on Smollet.

Read essay on Hawthorne.

" " " The Supernatural in Fiction.

" " " An Old Scottish Psychical Researcher.

I did not find this book as interesting as I anticipated. There is much in it, however, to indicate the steps by which Lang's interest in romantic fiction and the supernatural was to lead him to folklore, fairy tales, and psychic phenomena. The book is important in assessing his bias in studying these.

I am inclined to think that Lang is closely similar to myself in his love of books and imaginative marvels, and even perhaps more sympathetic with the trials and tribulations of people/generally.

This book should be retained for reference.



Hilroy
**typewriter
copy paper**

No. 2157 CANARY NEWS



Lang, Andrew

Aucassin & Nicolette; done into English by Andrew Lang;
New York, Thomas Y. Crowell & Co. (No Date) 56p.

This is a love story told in prose and verse.

Aucassin, a noble whose father wished him to marry well, falls in love with Nicolette, a pagan captive servant. He gets his father to agree that if he acquits himself well in battle, he will be permitted to embrace Nicolette. After a battle, he claims his reward, which the father denies; the son rebels.

Nicolette sends a cryptic message to Aucassin, and in seeking her Aucassin pays subjects of his father a fee to find her. It turns out that Nicolette is a daughter of the King of Carthage, kidnapped and enslaved by Christians; she and Aucassin live happily ever after.

There is nothing exceptional about this stereotyped romance except the manner of its telling, and Lang's grace of expression, and the learning disclosed in his introduction to the tale.

Lang, Andrew

The Book of Dreams and Ghosts; New Edition; London/New
York/Bombay, Longmans, Green, and Co., 1897 301p.

This is an excellent survey of the subject, beginning with the primitive difficulty of distinguishing between waking and dreams and proceeding from the normal and familiar dreams to wraiths and ghosts conveying veridical information extrasensorily.

Lang is cautious, and considers the subject mainly from the viewpoint of anthropology, feeling that only the expert neurologist, psychologist or psychiatrist is capable of analysing much of the material, assuming that fraud is excluded.

Beginning at page 165 "The Beresford Ghost" tells of the woman who mistook her age by one year, then realizing that her death was imminent, disclosed that the ghost of a former lover had clasped her wrist so hard that it withered and she was forced to wear a black band to cover it thenceforth. I read this case previously, possibly in one of Lord Halifax's volumes, or in Bruce Historic Ghosts and Ghost Hunters". I should compare the two accounts. Other famous cases are alluded to, and this volume is a most important contribution to the study of its subjects.

Lang, Andrew

Books and Bookmen: A New Edition; London and New York,
Longmans, Green, & Co., 1892; Illustrated 177p.
(Previously published, incomplete, New York, Combes, 1886)

These essays and poems are mainly about books and book collecting; but there are two essays: Some Japanese Bogie-Books; and Ghosts in the Library, which touch on psychical research.

An important chapter on hoaxes is Literary Forgeries, which expands information I already have, and which mentions that James Payn wrote a novel about Ireland, entitled The Talk of the Town (Shakespeare forgeries). Lang seems to believe that Ireland's father was an accomplice rather than a victim of his son's impostures.

This is a very interesting and important book for book collectors.

Lang, Andrew

Cock Lane and Common-Sense; London, Longmans, Green,
and Co., 1894 357p.

This book is an excellent text which bridges the gap between anthropological research and psychical research. It shows that the phenomena on which primitive belief and modern scientific investigation are based are common to both, and should be accepted by the two disciplines.

Some of the material in this book is basic to a study of Dreams and Ghosts, so the two books should be used together.

I have two of Lang's books covering his earlier anthropology researches, and should watch for others.

Lang's introductory chapter is excellent for students as a basis for pursuing their research; and his sensible appraisal of the cases he outlines should be used as a guide.

A fine reference book for the early period of psychical research, perhaps the best ahead of Myers.

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5. A Conversion	Th. Bentzon	169
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7. The Doctor's Story	Honore de Balzac	289

The introduction indicates that Lang despised Hearn's translation of Gautier's La Morte Amoureuse, and made this as an alternative. I do not know which I would prefer, but this is a classic vampire story. I may have read (2) previously, but am not sure; the only other story I remember is (7), but this version seems longer than the one I recall, and is of the husband who walled up his wife's lover when she declared there was no one in her closet.

Although only (1) is fantasy, (5) is about a girl who, though a Huguenot, loved a Catholic priest; and this story could be compared to Gautier's as a mundane example of forbidden love.

(7) I believe is considered a horror story and could consequently be included in the weird category, so I have filed this book in my fantasy collection of anthologies.

Lang, Andrew

Historical Mysteries; London, Edinburgh, Dublin and New York, Thomas Nelson & Sons (by Permission of Smith, Elder, & Co.); Frontispiece photo of Lang 374p.

Although several of these essays are of little interest to me, most are enlightening about cases which are mysterious and fascinating in the history of occultism.

- (1) Elizabeth Canning (Machen)
- (5) Marie Antoinette's necklace
- (6) Kaspar Hauser
- (8) D. D. Home
- (11) The Chevalier d'Eon (12) St. Germain
- (14) Marie Antoinette's necklace

This volume should be retained for reference.

Lang, Andrew

In the Wrong Paradise and Other Stories; London, Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., 1886 316p.

Contents

1. The End of Phaecia	1*
2. In the Wrong Paradise	109*
3. A Cheap Nigger	137
4. The Romance of the First Radical	177*
5. A Duchess's Secret	211
6. The House of Strange Stories	231*
7. In Castle Perilous	259*
8. The Great Gladstone Myth	281*
9. My Friend the Beach-Comber	301

In (9) some of the information given in (4) is repeated and some of these stories are connected by characters or incidents. (1) is lost race; a surviving Greek colony mentioned in the Odyssey. (2) The narrator dreams of people going to the heavens of others' imaginings, or even of their own, and being disappointed. (4) is similar to Jack London's Before Adam and other prehistoric tales. (6) several ghost stories are related tongue-in-cheek, also in (7). (8) shows a scientific paper dated 3886 indicating that Gladstone was a sun-god, thus poking fun at interpretations of early myths and religions by modern scholars.

These are mainly intellectual fantasies, showing the author's knowledge of psychic phenomena, mythology, religion, and anthropology. Humor, satire, and criticism of manners and customs as survivals of superstitions, are keynotes of these stories, but they are primarily purposeful rather than entertaining.

Lang, Andrew

A Monk of Fife: A Romance of the Days of Jeanne D'Arc; New York/London, Longmans, Green, and Co., 1895 (1895, Publishers), Second Edition, November, 1895; Frontispiece 335p.

Allegedly a translation of a manuscript left by a Scots monk who enlisted with the French against the English who fought Joan of Arc, this covers her life's main events with the story of Norman Leslie and his romance with the daughter of a painter who employed him. Much of the story tells of the battles in which Joan engaged, and the malefic influence of a renegade friar ventriloquist and sleight of hand magician who overpowered Leslie several times.

Lang instances prophetic power, and acknowledges the influence of Joan's voices and their guidance of her actions. He barely mentions De Rais.

This is classifiable as historic fantasy, and could be re-classified as a strictly historical novel if psychic phenomena were to be accepted as scientifically proved.

A forerunner of The Maid of France, it is an important companion for that book.

In an article entitled "Thackeray's Drawings", Lang says: "There is an old story that Pindar had never in his lifetime written an ode in praise of Persephone, the goddess of death and the dead, and that after he had departed from among living men, his shade communicated to the priests a new hymn on the Queen of Hades."

In an article entitled "Scotch Rivers", Lang Says: "The Wizard Merlin's grave is near the source of the Tweed River. Oakwood Tower, where Michael Scott wove his spells, is a farm building, the haunted magician's room is a granary; Earlstone, where Thomas the Rhymer dwelt, and whence the two white deer recalled him to Elfland and to the arms of the fairy queen, is noted "for its shawl manufactory".

Langdon-Davies, B. N.

The Practice of Book-Selling: With some opinions on its nature, status, and future; Foreword by Humbert M. Wilson; London, Phoenix House Limited (1951); Appendixes; Index; 208p.

The author was manager of a department store book department, and the bulk of this book relates to new books, net prices, discounts, regulations, associations, financing and the establishment, records and conduct of a new book business.

Since it relates to ~~XXXX~~ British trade restrictions, it is of only theoretical value in North America. However, the principles are sound and worth studying; and the book is a cautionary admonishment concerning the work involved in conducting a book business of any kind.

As in any business, the personnel factor is emphasised and the difficulty of obtaining adequate qualified staff at the low wages available is described.

The index makes this book an excellent reference for the basic advice rendered by the author for the conduct of a book business of any sort. The mixture of new and used books in the same shop is mentioned, but this has deservedly been discontinued in more modern times.

The author makes only incidental mention of antiquarian books, noting that these require special treatment and consideration which he was not qualified to render.

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CELEBRATING
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
1962-1987
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
ÇA SE FÊTE!

FirstCity Trust

Lange, John

Binary; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1972

213p.

This is an excellent suspense story about a madman who has decided to wipe out a political convention and a million people in San Diego in 1972. He plots to release two tons of nerve gas on the city by bringing together two elements at the critical moment.

His opponent is a government intelligence agent, whose personal psychological profile is used by the madman as a guide to how he will react to the situation. The technical and psychological elements are of equal interest in the situation.

All extraneous material has been eliminated from this short novel, which is expertly constructed.

Charles Templeton's The Kidnapping of the President is the closest approach to a similar novel in my reading.

This book is an excellent model for similar writing.

Bibliographical note: Paperback edition, New York, Bantam Books (June, 1973) 172p.

Lange, John

Overkill; London, Sphere Books Ltd (1972), (Centesis Corporation, 1970) Original title: Drug of Choice 143p.

Dr. Roger Clark examines in hospital a Hell's Angels cyclist and Sharon Wilder a beautiful starlet, the first after an accident, and finds them both uninjured but without memory of how they had gone into coma.

He learns that in San Cristobal in the Caribbean, an organization known as Advance, Inc., has established an Eden resort, and a travel agent with whom he had arranged a trip to Mexico tries to persuade him that to change his plans to Eden would give him the ultimate pleasure trip.

Becoming involved with Sharon, he investigates Advance and is offered a job with them at \$49,500 a year. Having signed an application form before being interviewed, he goes with Sharon to Eden, where he learns that a drug is used to make people easily suggestible, so that they experience under it whatever pleasure they wish, without the organization being under the necessity of providing the luxury.

He tries to escape, but the leaders of the organization subject him to a "reversal drug" which is torture. Ending in confinement as insane, this experience determines him to escape, so he causes an explosion and fire in the premises of Advance and ends up with one of the women who have attracted him at various times during the course of the story.

Advance, Inc. act on the premise that we are manipulated from birth to death, and that their drugs merely fulfill our destiny. The story is a superficial mixture of Bassett Morgan's "The Skeleton under the Lamp" and Merritt's Seven Footprints to Satan, but is merely a thriller without permanent value.

Lange, John

Zero Cool; London, Sphere Books Limited (1972), (1969,
Lange), 158p.

Radiologist Peter Ross vacations in Spain where he becomes involved in a plot to smuggle an emerald worth £20,000. The "professor" has a gang of hoods and girls to entrap Peter and the Count has trained falcons and a huge bodyguard to assist his wealth in gaining the treasure.

Peter is first forced to perform an autopsy planned to secrete the emerald in the body and export it to America; as this plot is thwarted by an intervening element, the Count plots to plant a scent on his rivals which will guide the falcon to kill them. In the end, Peter throws the jewel in a scented shirt to the Count, and his own falcon kills him.

Throughout the book, Peter is involved amorously with Angela Locke, but in the end, with the Count and the professor out of the way, she threatens him to obtain the emerald; but Peter shows her its splinters, it having been destroyed by a bullet from the Count's bodyguard's gun.

He returns from vacation, but decides not to tell of his adventures because they would not be believed.

Aside from the trained falcon angle, this is just a crime thriller, of no permanent value.

Langton, Edward (D.D., F.R.Hist.S., F.R.A.S.)

Satan: A Portrait: A Study of the Character of Satan Through All the Ages; with many illustrations; London, Skeffington & Son, Ltd. (no date); Indices 128p.

This is the best history of belief in the devil from a theological point of view that I have found. Thoroughly researched and thoughtfully considered, it concentrates on connecting the devil with the idea of evil, which was not originally possible because he was created by God as an angel.

Langton distinguishes between demon possession and possession by the devil by saying that demons were minor devils desiring the bodies of humans by means of which to express their desires, but the devil, Satan himself, took possession of people whose own evil desires attracted him.

Although the phenomenon of possession is acknowledged, this study does not examine them because it concentrates on the devil himself. On page 83, the author outlines a story:

Dom Calmet tells of a certain witch who, under trial, claimed that she used to go to any place she wished, really and corporally. To prove or disprove the truth of her story the inquisitors ordered her to go to a certain place, to speak to certain persons, and to bring back news concerning them. She promised to obey their commands. Thereupon she was locked up in a room, where she lay as if dead. They then entered the room, placed a lighted candle near her, and even burnt her foot, but she showed no sign of feeling pain. When she returned to consciousness she gave the required information, saying that she had had a difficult journey. When they questioned her about the injury to her foot, which had been burned, she replied that she knew nothing of it. The inquisitors then told her that during her supposed journey she had never moved from where she was. Convinced by such overwhelming proof, she recognized her error, and begged for pardon.

(Note: Nothing is said to indicate whether her report was checked concerning what she reported of her astral journey, but the burnt foot, her unconsciousness, and her awareness of the journey suggest an out-of-the-body experience such as Edgar Cayce and other genuine mediums often experienced.CDC.)

On page 86 mention is made of the superior knowledge and power of Satan, working through special mediums. "This fact of possession is so clearly maintained in Holy Writ and tradition that its existence cannot be denied without heresy."

On page 108 a discussion of rationalism versus scripture is decided in favor of the existence of demons.

This book is an excellent reference.

Chester D. Cuthbert
February 16, 1998

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CELEBRATING
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Larsen, J. Anker

Martha and Mary; Translated from the Danish by Arthur G. Chater; New York and London, Alfred A. Knopf, 1926; (1926, Knopf) 310p.

The fictional life stories of two orphaned sisters who are brought up apart and do not meet until they are widows, one having lost a daughter to suicide after having yielded to passion following a dance, the other having a beautiful daughter and two graceless and unmannerly sons who drink and squander their father's money, but whose work is her life and brings her respect and joy.

The first has become the second wife of a pastor who realizes that he had wished the death of his first wife to free him to marry the girl; he blames his wife for failing to try to get in touch through a medium with the spirit of their suicide daughter, even though she claims that nothing could bring her closer than she feels already, since she is conscious of living in eternal life--the static universe--and wishes only to spread her serenity to others.

The second, after waiting vainly for a politician, marries a handsome singer who settles down to making himself a good husband, but indulgent father to his boys.

Both girls find worth and peace despite their blighted love lives, and in this respect the novel is as mystical as the two others by this author that I have read. It is not a fantasy novel, however, as the others are.

Well written and interesting, it shows how it is possible for character to bring fulfillment despite environment and circumstances; and for the religious life to be experienced without formal religion.

Larsen, J. Anker

A Stranger in Paradise; Translated from the Danish by
Ruth Castberg Jordan; Toronto, Longmans, Green & Company,
1929 257p.

I believe that the author considered himself the
"Stranger in Paradise".

This is a mystical novel telling the story of Hans Larsen, a brilliant student of world-wide fame who renounced knowledge and life itself because of his realization that he could lead a parish into fruitful unity and strength by letting others more capable carry on his vision.

A girl whose love lasted from childhood to after his death; another beautiful girl who by his influence became a wife and mother of his friend rather than a good-time girl, but who would have felt honored to have yielded herself to his desire; his parents who could not understand him, yet respected and loved him as one greater than themselves; a storyteller whose parables enlightened him; a natural mystic whose quiet influence taught Hans that the way to God lay through feeling and intuition rather than through knowledge; and other characters whose village life contributed to his vision, make up the people and incidents of the story.

This is a religious novel, and some of the parables of God and the devil, the angels and their work, and the child experiences of imagination could be considered fantasy. Of the novel as a whole, because it is mystical can it be considered as fantasy? I think so, because the mystical experience, though accepted as a part of the psychology of religion, cannot be explained in terms of scientific knowledge, or be rationalized.

The early part of this novel is so simple a description of childhood that it may discourage the reader from continuing to the mystical and revelatory conclusion. In its own way, this novel could be considered as important as the earlier prize novel The Philosopher's Stone.

It would be interesting to compare this novel with The Hill of Dreams by Arthur Machen. Both concern themselves with the mystical life, this as a natural growth, and the other as an intellectual achievement if my memory is correct.

Larsen, Egon

The Deceivers: Lives of the Great Impostors; Illustrated;
London, John Baker (1966) 240p.

Of the impostors or confidence men and women, those of interest to me were Cagliostro, Caraboo, Reavis, Voigt, Walter Hubbell, William Roy, Mme Humbert, and Hartzell. This is an interesting book throughout, however. Of those underlined I had read previously.

On pages 136, 140, 141, Roy's encounter with Mackenzie King is detailed, Roy confessing that he faked Gladstone and Queen Victoria. One page 213, Hartzell is said to have paid large fees to Nell St. John Montague for assurance that his luck would hold good.

Although this book unfortunately lacks an index, it is a good reference work and should be retained.

Larsen, J. Anker

The Philosopher's Stone; Translated from the Danish by Arthur G. Chater; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1924; (1924, Publishers); 4th printing, September, 1924 379p.

This mystical, occult, and psychic novel sums up the search of the occultist for the answer to the riddle of his relationship to God and the universe, and compares the quest with the deeply felt but unconscious life of the simple folk who achieve peace without intellectual understanding.

Primarily dealing with two men from childhood, Christian Barnes, son of a rural pastor who has attracted crowds to his sermons, but who has lost his mastery, and Jens Dahl, student of occultism who becomes immersed beyond his depth, the novel follows the lives of their friends and the women who love but cannot distract them from their quest.

Barnes is saved by Miss Dale, an American seer who takes him in hand by apprenticing him to a giant cowboy in Montana, who works him so hard that he has no time for introspection, builds up his physique and his sense of manhood, and is a practical mystic and clairvoyante. Chapter 47 under her name is important for disclosing her view of the static universe.

Dahl senses his mastery over women and abuses it despite his abhorrence of a miller who had seduced a childhood playmate, who had then been ravished and murdered by a simple giant who loved her but was driven mad by her shame. In many lives the Professor plays the wise counsellor, befriending the giant when he is released from prison for good behavior, mending marriages, but is in turn instructed by the giant who tells him the nature of life and God.

This is probably one of the great occult novels because it relates to the lives of people as well as the quest for knowledge. Gone somewhat far into suicide, murder and other forms of death, it still emphasises the beauty and worth of living in God's grace, and warns against spiritualism and magic while affirming the reality of psychic phenomena.

A book well worth re-reading and studying.

Larry "The Silver Fox"

My Life with Xaviera "The Happy Hooker"; Introduction by Xaviera Herself!; New York, Warner Paperback Library (#78424), (April, 1974) 288p.

This autobiographical account of his life during four years with Xaviera Hollander is not always convincing, and although the self-advertising is not blatant it is crassly evident in the final suggestion that people to whom he might be of assistance in their sexual adjustments could address him directly.

Sensationalized sexually as Xaviera's own books were, the incidents in this book supplement the accounts in hers, and if true portray the more far-out practices of current jet-age society in the affluent circumstances which prevail.

There is nothing to suggest that Larry was a pimp; in fact, he says himself that he spent thousands of dollars on Xaviera, and appears to have been a business-man with an adequate income, some of which may have been a bit on the shady side. However, it seems to me that despite a sincere attraction between Xaviera and himself, his association with her may have continued in part because she introduced him to a fast set of people, and special situations, from which he derived sexual adventures which appealed to him, and met many women whose morals were on a level with his own. I might even substitute the word "tastes" for "morals" since the only suggestion that the practices Larry enjoyed were immoral is in the occasional fear of public disapproval or police intervention.

Although the book is interesting, I suspend judgment as to its value apart from its portrayal of jet-age social activities. The book, near its close, outlines sketchily the beginnings of Xaviera's association with Penthouse Magazine and Bob Guccione, its publisher.

Latham, Philip

Missing Men of Saturn; Philadelphia/Toronto, The John C.
Winston Company (1953, Latham) 215p.

Dale Sutton, second in standing at the Space Academy, is ordered to serve in an old space ship the Albatross, whose captain is a hardened and disillusioned entrepreneur. Having a difficult time to forge his way into fellowship with its crew, Dale finally makes friends with a couple of them, and after a fight with the Captain, comes to understand and respect him.

They are joined by two other space ships and a coded message assigns them to follow a derelict to Titan, where they find a descendant of a genius space captain who is historian to a race of reptilian creatures like salamanders who inhabit caverns under its surface. There are a few other descendants of the early crew, but the friendly aliens are repulsive to the earth men, who seek to escape.

This is a very good science fiction novel, with characterization adequate and action well motivated. The harsh environment is well described. The last few pages of the book give the author's personal views regarding the background for the story.

Latimer, John

C37

Border of Darkness; Don Mills, Ontario, Paper Jacks
(1975), (1973, John Latimer), (Doubleday) 184p.

Although this novel is said to be originally a Crime Club selection, it is a rather dull, restrained, traditional novel of witchcraft in the Harz Mountains in 1872.

My guess is that the author's name is a pseudonym for a woman writer of Gothics. The story follows the adventures of a British governess hired to teach English to a 12-year-old boy whose father is a student of witchcraft and an invalid subject to attacks of illness which suggest the influence of a coven of witches operating in the nearby area.

Falling in love with the uncle of the boy, Joanna Elden is denied his aid because the boy's father banishes him from the estate. Joanna watches while the boy appears possessed, and engages the assistance of a priest who concurs with her views and ostensibly helps to control the boy by gifts which relate to his hobby of nature study.

Not only does the priest turn out to be the leader of the coven, but the boy has been totally possessed during a period of illness following exposure to a storm supernaturally created by the witches, and becomes Satan himself after Joanna signs a pact giving her soul to the devil in her effort to free the boy. Only this double revelation of the identity of the powers of darkness in human form gives the novel any real impact, as the incidents are ordinary, the action is slow, and the romantic interest is never fulfilled because of the ultimate triumph of the dark powers over Joanna.

This is a less than average witchcraft novel.

Latimer, Jonathan

Dark Memory; New York, Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc.
1940 339p.

Jay Nichols and his friend Bill with whom he had gone to college have been hired to accompany Lewis Cable and Prof Huntley on safari to obtain two gorillas. Succeeding in the hunt, they agree to search for Eve Solles' husband, who is missing in pygmy territory. Cable, though married, is infatuated with Eve and pursues her, saying that his aid in searching for her husband depends upon her favoring him. Jay objects, and is beaten up by Cable; but Cable is shot by a young man set by Solles as guardian over his wife. Jay, Eve and Bill decide to follow Solles' trail, but are attacked by a leopard who fatally injures Bill. Jay is wounded, but he and Eve lose the trail after burying Bill, and come to love each other.

When they are rescued, they learn that Solles is safe. Jay meets him; Solles enlists the aid of a priest to influence his wife who is a Catholic. Jay denies the pleas of the priest, and Eve decides to forsake her husband and go with Jay. Eve has never loved her husband, but was influenced by her family to marry him for wealth and position.

Jay's delay in acknowledging his love for Eve is due to his being under the shadow of the dark memory of his wife, killed in an automobile accident when Jay was trying to take her to hospital to be delivered of their first child.

This is a slight story, told at much too great length. Although interesting, neither the author nor the characters seem to be sure of themselves, and the story lacks permanent effect.

Latimer, Jonathan

Murder in the Madhouse; Garden City, New York, The Sun
Dial Press (1935) 313p.
London, Hurst & Blackett, Ltd., n.d. 288p.

This is a wacky murder mystery, commencing with William Crane having himself committed to a private asylum so that he may protect old Miss van Camp from robbery. Crane drinks at every opportunity; is twice beaten up on the day of his arrival; suspects a beautiful but promiscuous nurse; fails to prevent four murders; but finally identifies the killer.

Although quick-moving and interesting, this is a contrived story with sensational rather than interesting characters, and has nothing of permanent value.

Lauder, Mrs. Maria Elise T. T.

Legends and Tales of the Harz Mountains, North Germany; Toronto, William Briggs; Montreal, C. W. Coates; Halifax, S. F. Huestis; London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1885 (Fifth Ed) 259pp.

About seventy short legends and tales are recounted in this book, out of perhaps a thousand which came to the attention of the author. Some of the stories are original, based on legends, and for that reason the book comes within the scope of those which should be investigated as Canadian fantasy.

The original stories are not clearly designated, unless only the one or two which appear to have been personal experiences of Mrs. Lauder are these. Since these are not fantasy excepting to the extent of one being a dream experience, the book is not important in fantastic literature.

It is, however, a good example of why folklore cannot be included in the field of fantastic fiction. Folklore tales are profuse in number, and are often too fragmentary to be classified as fiction stories.

Most of the ideas behind the legends have been used often as the bases for weird tales.

Laumer, Keith

Deadfall; Garden City, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1971
(Laumer) 204p.

This mystery story, Laumer's first, is dedicated to "the incomparable Raymond Chandler And to his peerless private eye, Philip Marlowe", and is close to being a carbon copy of Chandler's work. It revolves around the identity of a twin girl, and the characterizations of the sisters make it possible that either could be an orphan substituted for an original twin; a possibility which Laumer does not clarify at the end of the book.

As with Chandler, the story deals with a limited range of characters, most of them crooks, cops, shyster lawyers, hoods, worn out or wearing out women of doubtful character and lethal possibilities, with Laumer's Joe Shaw forcing his way through a complex of action in his effort to balance between his duty to his clients, his duty to the police as a citizen, and his efforts to safeguard his own life.

A creditable performance, both in plotting and in writing; but like Chandler, leaving nothing of permanent value for me.

Laumer, Keith, and Dickson, Gordon R.

Planet Run; Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1967, (Laumer & Dickson) 167p.

The dust jacket blurb gives a fairly good description of this space adventure story. Captain Henry is the best-drawn character; young Larry Bartholomew's weakness is over-drawn in the early stages of the story: such blatant errors of behavior would never allow Henry's granddaughter to fall in love with Larry.

The subsidiary characters, especially the assorted criminals are a rather laughable mixture of gangdom and western rustler types; and the punishment undergone by Henry and Larry gets a bit sadistic.

The possibilities of rejuvenation and immortality which are outlined in the story constitute its main claim to the designation of science fiction; but the setting and action are fairly standard space opera.

A rather hackneyed treatment of the old-timer coach and young untried pupil theme. This is routine, and of no permanent value in a science fiction collection.

The Parker Lifetime Treasury of Mystic and Occult Powers
West Nyack, New York, Parker Publishing Company (1978, Pub-
lishers) 229p.

"Maria" told me that she considers this the best book she has ever read, and I promised to follow her advice and read it soon.

I discovered that two chapters were missing, so I did not try to read it thoroughly. I scanned it rapidly, and my impression is that it promises power, wealth and good fortune to those who follow occult exercises and practices, "white" witchcraft and magical formulae.

Since magic and the acquisition of power are not my own philosophy, this book is of little interest to me apart from its being an example of Norman Vincent Peale's philosophy of The Power of Positive Thinking, expressed in terms of Occultism.

This symposium draws on other books published by the same publisher, and it is likely that Maria, being favorably impressed by it, is searching for the books used as sources. I am able to assist her with her quest, and will do so to the extent she will permit.

There are many roads to God, and mine is different from Maria's.

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CELEBRATING
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
— 1962-1987 —
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
Ç A S E F Ê T E !

FirstCity Trust

Laver, James

Background for Venus; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1935
(1934, Laver) 303p.

Two art dealers competing for the purchase of a Botticelli painting of Venus, and a young artist named Fellows who has won a scholarship provided by one of the dealers, are the focal points of this novel. The lax sexual ethics of artists and models provide the emotional elements which lead ultimately to the suicide of Fellows, and the problems of living encountered by collectors, dealers, newspapermen and journalists.

To me, Laver appears to depict well the lives of an unstable segment of society, and the part which wealth and luxury plays in them. The tone of his novel is realistic rather than cynical, and he appears to doubt the maintenance by anyone of a pure sexual code. Even Fellows, dedicated to a high artistic standard and not a womanizer, has had sexual liaisons; though when he is forced to accept the fact that a beautiful woman who enslaves him is an expensive mistress of one of the art dealers, his artistic powers fail, and he commits suicide.

The plot is unimportant. What is important in this book is the portrayal of a segment of society and its values.

Laver, James

Nymph Errant; London, William Heinemann Ltd; (August,
1933 (June, 1932) 318p.

Evangeline Edwards, having finished her term at school in Geneva, with six friends is about to return to her home with her aunt Ermytrude in north Oxford. On the train she meets a theatrical producer who easily persuades her to go with him to a hotel in Lausanne; but when she notes that he has commenced paying attention to a friend of hers, she goes away with a musician.

In Paris she meets a Russian, then a German boy with whom she goes to a nudist colony. Here she loses any false modesty she may have had; and leaving with an Italian-Austrian nobleman as his mistress, is sold by him to a Greek capitalist who takes her to Smyrna, hoping to empty his warehouse before the Turks can loot it. However, he is killed, and she and Gladys, a Lancashire servant girl, are sold into slavery.

Rescued by an American sanitary engineer, Evangeline returns first to Geneva where she half-hopes to find her Turk master, then to Paris where she finds her friend stage-managed by her original seducer. Sighing at the never-ending scenes and situations, never original, she returns home to her aunt, with whom she has tea.

This is merely a modern sophisticated version of the story of the woman as sex-object passing from the hands of one man to another through series of adventures. The Arabian Nights, Voltaire, Boccaccio, and probably every other story-teller who wrote much, right through to the present time, has told this story, varying only the details.

I do not consider this book to be as important as the author's Background to Venus. It does have the appearance of being written against backgrounds for which the author has had observational opportunities.

Panic Among Puritans; New York, Farrar & Rinehart, Inc.
(1936)(James Laver) 296p.

This novel starts out by narrating several inexplicable incidents occurring in England and mainly in rural settings which suggest to a museum official that ancient gods and creatures have appeared to modern man. His daughter, and a young poet, are the hero and heroine of the novel, but their roles are secondary to the idea that the gods are surveying English mores, and only Mars finds the scene agreeable. The others feel that the repression of love has resulted in the deterioration of the quality of life, and perversions which increase the misery of man and detract from his appreciation of the world.

The incidents involving contact of the gods with mortals are played up to suggest the shock of prudery, and to expose the hypocrisy of society. Although it is a sophisticated novel, its fundamental theme is important in saying that the frustration of love is a denial of the blessing of life.

To the best of my knowledge, this is Laver's only fantasy novel. It is not listed in Bleiler, but was listed by Day in the Supplemental Checklist.

Lavine, Emanuel H.

The Third Degree: A Detailed and Appalling Exposé of Police Brutality; Garden City, New York, Garden City Publishing Company, Inc. (1930, The Vanguard Press, Inc.) 248p.

A foreword by James Henle, President, The Vanguard Press, confirms that the author was a police reporter for 25 years, invariably telephoning his stories to re-write men to hasten publication.

Manny Lavine witnessed instances of the cruelty he describes, and blames the system of graft, corruption, political pressures, influence, bribery, and institutions, rather than the individual policemen, judges, prison wardens and guards, for the lethal consequences.

This book is confirmed by Killer by "Joey", which shows that the system still operates. The Spanish Inquisition had refinements by comparison.

I'm thankful that I was never a policeman, a politician, or a judge, or an official of any sort in a prison. Surely this is a portrayal of the seamy side of the world, and not of ordinary people.

Lawrence, C. E.

The God in the Thicket; London & Toronto, J. M. Dent & Sons
Ltd.; New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., 1920 256p.

Jan Aylmer, an itinerant musician, encounters a camp of the Butterfly People who are like Gypsies and named after characters like Harlequin whom they resemble or portray. Faint from hunger he is rescued by Daphne, who tries to command his love in repayment. He falls in love with Punchinello's daughter Aimee, beautiful but mindless because of a traumatic fright years before. His love and companionship appear to benefit Aimee, but he is forbidden to see her because Daphne jealously misrepresents the relationship and Jan's instinctive enemy Pierrot tries to replace him.

Jan's great friend among the Butterfly People, Colin, tries to convince Jan that his love for Aimee is hopeless because of her mental incapacity, but Jan's love is selfless and he is prepared to devote his life to her. Believing in the god of Pan's Mountain he offers to sacrifice his musical genius if Pan will cure Aimee; this transpires and Jan loses his gift for music; Colin warns Jan that Aimee will not know him because her mind resumes life from the time before Jan's arrival. Jan hopes otherwise, but Colin is right and Jan's sacrifice does not benefit him.

Elves and fairies play a background role in the story, but are not more than an element of poetic companionship with Pan. Jan's spiritual search for happiness imbues the Mountain scene sadly.

This is a most unusual and gentle fantasy, well written and interesting because it portrays humans and mythological creatures living apart but influencing each other.

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- 3) A full credit course in German 100 July 5-30, 9:00 A.M. -2:00 P.M. Fee \$275 New for this year.

Registration Forms available by telephoning 237-0212.

Lawrence, D. H.

The Captain's Doll; New York, Berkley Publishing Corp.
(#G-43), (1922,1923, 1933, 1950, 1951) 190p.

Contents

1. The White Stocking	5
2. Goose Fair	29
3. Second Best	41
4. The Blind Man	51
5. The Blue Moccasins	71
6. The Rocking-horse Winner	89*
7. The Captain's Doll	105

(1) A married woman is admired and given gifts by her former employer, a known womanizer, to the dismay of her husband. (2) A young man, suspected of setting fire to a business by his fiancée, proves an alibi by attending a country fair. (3) A young man, considered second best as a husband, proves himself first after two sisters kill moles nearby. (4) A blinded war veteran becomes friendly with a former friend of his wife who cannot bear to enter personal relationships but is wise, intellectual, and needs friends. (5) A jealous wife is exposed when she refuses her husband the use of a gift which she has never used or appreciated. (6) A boy is able to foresee the outcome of races when he rides a rocking-horse. (7) See notes under the hardcover edition, which has contents differing from this paperback.

Lawrence, D. H.

The Fox; Bantam Books (#H3765), (1923, November, 1967)
105p.

This movie tie-in edition reprints the second of three novelettes formerly published in The Captain's Doll, which I read some years ago.

See my notes under that title.

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C E L E B R A T I N G
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
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FirstCity Trust

Lawrence, D. H.

The White Peacock; London, Duckworth & Co.; (Third Impression, April, 1921) 496p.
London, J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd. (Everyman's Library #914), (1935) 361p.

The story of two families, told in the first person by Cyril who narrates private and intimate conversations which he could not have heard, thus irritatingly from a literary point of view destroying their authenticity, and who, though loving Emily, sister of his best friend George who in turn loves Cyril's sister Lettie, ~~xxxxxxx~~ stays single while Lettie marries Leslie, a wealthy businessman and politician who loves her even though jealous of her liking for George.

George marries his cousin, a buxom girl who works at an inn which she inherits, but despite her love for him cannot adjust to life away from the farm which has been taken from his family when their crops are spoiled by the squire's love and protection of rabbits. Although successful as a buyer and seller of horses, George succumbs to the lure of drink and is in the prime of life suffering from delirium tremens and looking forward to death. Although his family survives without him, he has made them suffer humiliation and cruelty and they detest him.

The author appears to advocate the simple, earthy life and to be against the artificial city and intellectual life away from nature. His portrayal of family life is detailed to a point which would be unacceptable in 1986 publishing, and the lack of dramatic elements in the story would militate against the sensationalism now rampant.

Although an accurate portrayal of family life, I was not impressed sufficiently to wish to re-read this book, so it can be disposed of.

I. EPISTLES TO CHURCHES.

These epistles teach the proper order of the church and her relationship to Christ the Head. They also instruct the church as to her position, possessions, privileges and duties.

Romans has naturally the first place in order, since it is the foundational epistle of the doctrines of salvation. Romans shows the material out of which God forms the church: man lost in sin, hopeless, helpless. It also shows how God by His mighty power transforms this unpromising material into living stones of which the church is built, Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.

Romans

I and II Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

I and II Thessalonians

II. EPISTLES TO INDIVIDUALS.

The message of these epistles applies especially to individual Christians, concerning Christian living and service:

I and II Timothy

Titus

Philemon

The Pauline Epistles were written by a special apostle (not one of the twelve), to a special body of people (the church), with a special object in view (the instruction of that body).

III. THE CHURCH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

Broadly speaking, the group of people which is the main object of attention in the New Testament is the church. The Gospels present Christ the foundation and Head of the church. The book of Acts records the beginning and early history of the church. The Epistles contain instructions for the church, and the book of Revelation prophesies concerning the church.

Lawrence, D. H.

The Woman Who Rode Away and other stories; New York,
Berkley Publishing Corporation (June, 1957, new edition,
January, 1962) 222 p.

1. The Woman Who Rode Away	7*
2. Sun	40
3. Two Blue Birds	56
4. The Border Line	70*
5. In Love	87
6. The Last Laugh	100*
7. Glad Ghosts	115*
8. The Man Who Loved Islands	153
9. Jimmy and the Desperate Woman	176
10. Smile	199
11. None of That	203

#1 is the story of a married woman who left her family to seek a mystic fulfilment from a Mexican indian tribe in a hidden valley. The fate that awaits her is sacrifice to the sun god. #4 is the story of a woman who marries a sycophantic friend of her husband's when he fails to return from the war; and years later on a trip to Germany her husband's ghost comes to make love to her when she finally realizes that her second husband is the lesser man. #6 tells how Pan influences a couple to renew their lives by yielding to their primitive instincts. #7 like #4 is a ghost story, but the ghost casts influence on two lives in order to achieve the satisfaction of bodily love which was denied it in life, the result being the pregnancy of two living women by lovers and not their husbands.

All the stories are typical of Lawrence's obsession with the desire of human beings to return to primitive relationship with the earth and with each other as men and women.

Lawrence, J. D.

Groupie Sex Comes of Age; Triumph Fact Book TNC 127;
(Dominion Publishing Company, Van Nuys, Calif., 1st ptg.
May, 1968) 156p.

Alleging to be a factual study of the girls termed "groupies" because they are camp-followers of musical groups, this is really a biassed and sensational account, which might possibly be termed pornographic.

Substantially, it indicates that girls seek status and incidentally sexual satisfaction by attaching themselves to the musical groups. Their defiance of the older morality is apparently an excuse for extremes of sexual behaviour, though many of the incidents described as typical must certainly be exaggerated and exceptional. My own impression is that many of the case-histories are the product of the imagination of either the subjects or the "interviewer"; I have never seen or heard of such incidents as other than exceptional.

Contents

1. The Marquise's Last Lover: A Study in Pastels	11
2. The Inca's Crown: A Study in Illusion	35
3. The Traitress: A Tale of Paris in 1943	65
4. "The Desire of the Moth for the Star...": The Story of a Miracle	109*
5. Queen for a Night: A Melodrama	169
6. Cardboard Castle: A Novelette of 1929	239

(1) an old, unrepentant lover of men awaits death and finds him charming. (2) a priest believes that a crown is the reason for miracles; but it was really made in Birmingham for a travelling troupe. (3) the French mistress of the German military governor of Paris, though ostracized by her countrywomen, is actually a spy for her country, and poisons him and his friends at a party when she learns that she is pregnant and that he wants the child for the Fatherland and his own vanity. (4) is a case of faith-healing which agrees with my view that it is faith which cures, and not the validity of the belief; when the idol is found to have feet of clay, the cure fails. (5) a girl who is made use of for a night by an Indian Prince, still loves him and glories in the experience, even after she learns that he never allows any woman to stay longer than a night, and is a roue. This confirms my impression from the first story that Margery Lawrence believes that love is more important than morality. (6) is a predictable story of a middle-aged woman who inherits a good income, falls in love with an Italian gigolo, marries him for love, but realizes her folly when she learns that he is dating her own niece, and banishes him to Italy on a small allowance.

I liked 2, 4, and 5 best of these stories, but all are fairly interesting.

Lawrence, Margery H.

Fine Feathers; New York, A. L. Burt Company (1928, The
Curtiss Press) 275p.

Actually comprised of two long novelettes involving two adventures of Anne Brandt, the Fly-by-Night, a woman jewel-thief, this book is inconsistent because in the first episode Anne returns the jewels to her victim's niece, yet in the second she has them in her possession.

In both, the Scotland Yard operative Jack Dering is enamoured of Anne; and in both he plays an ineffectual role, finally letting her go with her loot and writing a letter of resignation, only to have Anne return, give up her loot, and prepare to join him and live a new life.

It is quite apparent that the author knows little of police work and procedure, and that these stories are simply romantic adventures of a woman Raffles. The writing is not good, and Anne seems a vain, promiscuous, and inconsistent heroine.

Despite this reprint edition, I think this must be one of the writer's poorest books.

Lawson, Jack, M.P.

Under the Wheels; London, Hodder & Stoughton Limited,
1934 278p.

This is a very good novel portraying the life in an English north country mining town, and showing why it was necessary for the unions to develop power because of the oppressive capitalistic system.

There is no need to blame the system; it is inevitable as long as those in power refuse to value people above the power of money.

Although the author's portrayal paints the idealistic side of labor life, this is an authentic novel of the coal miner's existence, and the conditions which had to be faced pre-war and post war in the industry.

The de-humanizing effect of the depression is demonstrated, but the author offers no solution to the problem.

Lazenby, C. (B.A.)

The Work of the Masters; London, The Path Publishing
Company, 1917 78p.

Reprinted from Volume 2 of The Path, these essays try
to formulate the characters and functions of the Masters.
Jesus is treated merely as one of these.

This is a handy reference for those who may not have
time to analyse the letters on which the essays are based.

